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THE MORNING NEWS

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Wednesday, May 7, 2014

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Staff of Horacio E. Oduber hospital open Nurses' Week 2014



Welcome from Theo de Kool

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba's hospital joins with their brethren around the world in honoring the nursing staff during Nurses' Week 2014, which began with an opening ceremony at the hospital entrance and lobby yesterday morning.

Administrator Theo de Kool officially welcomed guests from the island medical administrative agencies, and employees

for the beginning of a week of educational workshops, social events and a final party celebrating their caregivers. This year's international Nurses' Week theme is "Nurses Leading the Way."

The International Council of Nurses (ICN) has celebrated this day since 1965. In 1953 Dorothy Sutherland, an official with the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, proposed that President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaim a "Nurses' Day," but he did not. The week ends on May 12 as the final celebratory day since 1974, which is the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, widely considered the founder of modern nursing. In her honor, the UK conducts a service in Westminster Abbey in London. A symbolic lamp is taken from the Nurses' Chapel in the Abbey and handed from one nurse to another, finally to the Dean, who places it on the High Altar. This signifies the passing of knowledge from one nurse to another.

This year, the commencement of Nurses' Week including the opening of a museum in the hospital dedicated to its history and that of nursing on Aruba.

Nigeria's Boko Haram kidnaps more girls as outrage grows

KANO (AFP) - Suspected Boko Haram Islamists have kidnapped eight more girls from Nigeria's embattled northeast, residents said yesterday, after the extremist group's leader claimed responsibility for abducting more than 200 schoolgirls last month.

The girls were seized by gunmen in the village of Warabe as global outrage grew three weeks after the mass kidnapping in the nearby town of Chibok, which the UN warned may be a crime against humanity.

Boko Haram chief Abubakar Shekau said the extremist Islamist group was holding the schoolgirls abducted from Chibok on April 14 as "slaves," and threatened to "sell them in the market," in a video obtained by AFP on Monday.

The parents of those taken from Chibok said Shekau's video had made an already horrifying situation even worse.

The latest kidnappings also took place in Borno state, the home base of the Islamist group.

Several managed to escape but over 220 girls are still being held, according to police.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague yesterday called the kidnappings "disgusting" while US senators urged Washington to intervene.

And the United Nations warned that the sale of the girls could be a crime against humanity.

Egypt's prestigious Islamic institute Al-Azha, which runs the main Sunni Islamic university in the region, said harming the girls "completely contradicts the teachings of Islam."

Angelina Jolie, speaking in Paris about her latest film "Maleficent", condemned the Chibok abductions as "unthinkable cruelty and evil."

"We have no security here. If the gunmen decide to pick our own girls nobody can stop them."

Initially slow to emerge, global outrage has flared over the abduction of hundreds of schoolgirls when Boko Haram stormed their school and loaded them onto trucks.

TODAY'S WEATHER



Morning
27 °C
84 °F



Evening
25 °C
78 °F

Wind: E - 23 mph
Humidity: 79%
UV-Index: 11-Extreme
Sunrise: 6:27 am
Sunset: 6:53 pm



LOCAL NEWS

Texting while driving on the increase on Aruba

ORANJESTAD – During a recent press conference, Minister of Justice Arthur Dowers announced that even though the police are responding strongly against all those who do not comply with traffic rules, there has been a drastic increase in accidents. The police force and government are determined to invest more time and energy to address this matter.

If a driver suddenly veers on the road without any indication and smashes into a tree or collides with another car, from experience, in most cases, it can be concluded that there is texting taking place while driving, or the motorist is distracted by their cellular phone.

Looking at the incredible risk this incurs, the government has opted to increase traffic control and acquire the necessary instruments to do so. At present there is no law that pro-

hibits driving while holding a cellular. But now, since the high increase of traffic accident, it is agreed that it's time to change the law. It will soon be prohibited to ban drive with cellular phone in hand. Such laws have long been enacted in other countries.

In 2013 more than 1400 motorists were fined and 1 million Aruban florins were collected, which is a 50% increase from the year before. This demonstrates that regular traffic control is paying off. The amount of fatal car accidents has decreased during these last years and it is expected to continue to diminish.

In 2013, the police department registered 8007 traffic accidents with no personal injuries, while there were 1059 accidents with minor injuries. Compared to 2012 this represents an increase of 1000



accidents with minor injuries and 400 accidents with no injuries.

Minister Dowers concluded by saying that police will continued with intervention and control in

order to prevent irresponsible behavior by motorists. "This will be one of the main priorities of the government," he said.

Happy Mother's Day Brunch

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Sunday, May 11, 2014
From 11:00 am till 2:00 pm



Adult Local:

AWG 40.00 - Children 6-12 years AWG 20.00 - Kids 5 & under FREE.

Price include Tax & Service Charge

For reservation and information

pls call Garden Café
at 526-7714 / 5267712
Rosa Agudelo 5945984

BRIDGE RESULTS

ORANJESTADA -- A total of 9 pairs attended the bridge session at the members lounge of the Aruba Beach Club Resort.

The results 50% and higher are as follows:

- 1) Geke In 't Veld / Wim Pennings 63.33 %
- 2) Jaenette Schoemaker / Marleen v.Baarlen 57.50 %
- 3) Anna Rosa Ebbing / Addy Eilers 55.00 %
- 4) Joke Henriquez / Annette Ybeles Smit 51.67 %
- 5) Willy Flanegin / Maritza van Romondt 50.69 %

Friday evening, May 2nd 2014 - game cancelled.

Aloha Bridge Club Aruba meets twice a week: on Thursday mornings at the Members Lounge of the Aruba Beach Club Resort, starting at 9.00 am and on Friday evenings at the Frank Conway Roomn of Casa del Mar, starting at 7.30 pm. Signing up closes ten minutes before starting time.

Fee for guest players \$ 7.00 per person. The club can also be of assistance in finding single players a bridge partner. Please call Addy Eilers, tel. 582-4953.

LOCAL NEWS

Sometimes politicians are the ones that hinder the salvation of the economy

The politicians never saved the economy but it's the private sector that does!



ORANJESTAD -- Economist Ben Marapin acknowledged the truth, when he said that it is done after the hospital and green corridor project. According to the economist, after the chosen projects by the government, it is important to evaluate the importance of the inversion if this is worthwhile. "I praise the Aruban private sector in comparison to other countries, where the private sector depends mainly on the creativity of entrepreneurs," declared Marapin.

In countries such as South America and Surinam, politicians receive many things through lobby as result that the country develop into a negative handling and goes into the wrong direction. According to the economist, Aruba's private sector showed the ability to survive different crisis and came with many solutions.

"The government does not create the economical solution, the private sector does. Many times occurred that the politician think that they made the economy into a positive one. You cannot make a positive economy, the economy has its own flow and guided by the private sector," explained Marapin.

The government should not hinder the private sector in this process. Neither give them all the benefits, but they should not come with strict regulation which interfere with the private sector. Actually, banks screens all projects in all their aspects but the risk remains. There are some projects that goes well and others that don't.

"The history of Aruba shows that the banks and private sector does an excellent job. It is a fact that the economy of Aruba has increased, this is because of the private sector. The government only creates employment thus not save the economy, but the private sector," concluded Marapin.

It is a must for motorists to follow traffic regulations

Children under 12 years must sit in the back and children under 5 years sit in a child seat according the law



ORANJESTAD -- There are many accidents that take place on the island. There are more accidents between car and car in comparison to car and motorcycle, nevertheless the accident between car and the motorcycle is because the car driver does not measure the velocity of the motorcycle. "There are many time that the car driver thinks that the motorcycle is coming with an decreased velocity and cross the street without measuring the consequences," said Mr. Lito Lacle, police spokesman.

The police force focused on the awareness for parents to place their children in a child seat to prevent impact on the child during an accident. According the police spokesman, law states that if a child is under than 12 years of age he must sit in the back and if the child is under 5 years of age a child seat is necessary.

"Every parent that loves his child must follow this regulation for protection of their child. If this is not the case, the parents is shown as irresponsible of their children. The parent always think that nothing can happen, but this is not the case. There are many

parent that ride with their child on a scooter or motorcycle without helm, which is extremely dangerous," explained Lacle.

"The police officer that see such a situation must act at once for the child safety. Motorists must be cautious on the road and follow traffic regulations. We must be aware of the cyclists also hitting the road. Currently, we have many complain from tourists and locals that car drivers does not respect cyclists," concluded Lacle.

The police force has a project bid where they are working on to win it. The government of Aruba will come with a project with more than 200 cameras that will be placed around the island. The cameras will be placed at strategic places to monitor the traffic, but also assist the officers in future holdups in different situation that is against the law, with the proof of the cameras captured information.

This project is an awareness of the traffic regulations as well. The project is for Aruba in its totality with a better focus in the hotel area. Currently, there is a complain police department especially for the tourists.

Mother's Day

SPECIAL DINNER

Thank you MOM for always helping me to remember what is important in life.... and today it is YOU

MAIN COURSE: (choose one)

- * Land & Sea
A perfect combination of Steak, Chicken & Shrimps
- * Grilled Chicken Breast
stuffed with spinach and mozzarella cheese covered with wine sauce
- * Prime Rib
served with a sauce of fresh mushroom sautéed with green and shallot onion on top
- * Golden Platter
savior a platter of scallop, fried squid and spicy shrimps
- * Fresh Catch of the day
served with seafood on top

All entrees are served with green beans almondine, Chef's style plantain, rice or loaded potato

SWEET MAMI DESSERT:

served with coffee or tea

Friday 9 May, Saturday 10 May
Time 5.30 - 10.00 pm and of course
Sunday 11 May from 11.00 am - 10.00 pm.
Special price: aff. 65.00 p/p
Kids till 12 years only \$ 12.00

Open: Monday through Saturday
from: 5:30 pm till 10 pm
For reservations please call:
586-6172 or Cell: 593-0027



Robert Matysik honored by Aruba Tourism Authority

Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal guests of La Cabana Beach Resort and Casino as Ambassador of Goodwill of Aruba.

The honoree is Robert Matysik resident of Somers Point New York.

The certificate was presented to him by Darline de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of Sharine Charles of La Cabana Beach Resort and Casino.



LOCAL NEWS

Subway Aruba is the proud sponsor of the Aruba Bank Walk & Run 2014



ORANJESTAD -- Subway Aruba is proud to sponsor the annual Aruba Bank 4-day Walk & Run for the 7th consecutive year. The event will take place June 3 through 6. Every day the walk will end at one of Aruba Bank branches on the island, and the distance will be increased. The first day will start with a 5.5 km route, to 6.5 km on the final night. Inscription starts next week, Monday, May 12, at both IBISA offices.

Subway is known as a company that motivates the community to live and eat in a healthy manner. To be the sponsor of such an event fits exactly with their ideals. All participants who, after the walk, visit Subway with their dry-fit shirt, will receive a 10% discount on their order.

This year the Aruba Bank introduces a new factor for the walk. Twenty can participate in the Aruba Bank Challenge, and out of those twenty, ten will be well known local personalities, while the other ten places are

open for those interested.

For 3 weeks these twenty individuals will receive an eating and exercise plan under the guidance of Rodney Paternella of 2BFit Studio. Among the chosen ones are Indroh Kelkboom of Cool FM, Erin Croes of Magic FM, Dwight Jimenez, photographer, Jelitza Lake of TERA Group and Mrs. Simmons, manager at the Aruba Bank. During that time a part of their diet will be healthy and fresh meals at Subway.

Subway invites everyone to participate in the 4-day walk. Inscription is Afl. 15,- which includes a "dri-fit shirt" and an "infused water bottle" while stock is available.

Spaces are limited so do not hesitate.

Photo shows Subway Manager Jaime Maduro together with the Aruba bank challengers announcing the 10th Aruba Bank Walk & Run.

"Beyond the bell" pilot program for secondary schools initiated



ORANJESTAD -- On Monday, May 5, Minister of Education Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, together with Minister of General Welfare, Prime Minister Mike Eman, announced that the group working on the project to launch an after school program for students is ready with their report and they plan to soon start the pilot project.

Dubbed 'Beyond the Bell' for students attending secondary school, it is aimed to stimulate youngsters in their development and help them improve their school performance, after usual school hours. The plan is to start with the new academic year in September 2014, placing some 500 youngsters from EPB and MAVO, with an age range of about 12 to 13 years. The program is absolutely FREE. Some 4 to 5 schools will be selected around the island where the program will be implemented within school premises.

Afterwards, when the whole program is established in all secondary schools (EPB, MAVO, HAVO AND VWO), there will be places for students between 12-18 years. The program will be in the afternoon hours, Monday through Friday, from 2 to 5 p.m. with the possibility to extend it until 6 p.m.

Beyond the Bell After School Program is designed to meet parents' childcare needs, as well as provide

social, educational, and recreational opportunities for students. Certified teachers and highly trained child care professionals will lead students in a fun, learning-rich environment that will also provide dedicated homework time, fun and fitness activities, science activities and much more.

There is still a lot to do, according to Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar, including additional training for the teachers who will be guiding the students. The students will stay at their own school; it is much easier, the school is safe and there is no need for extra transportation.

Concerning personnel, the government is looking for individuals who already are employed as civil servants, to avoid extra cost. The administrators of the program will select the teachers, who will then follow a training course on how to deal with the youngsters. Each leader will get 15 students under their watch.

Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar is very enthusiastic about this project and promises to give all her cooperation to see it starts by this coming September. "Our students and their parents need and deserve the extra support, which is what this project offers. It is important for their overall development."



<p>FOR THE HUNGRY! RED FISH DELICIOUS DISHES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ½ Lb Fresh Fish \$10.85 • 1 Lb Fresh Fish \$20.00 • ½ Lb Fresh Shrimp \$15.40 • 1 Lb Fresh Shrimp \$25.70 • 1 Lb Fish & Shrimps \$25.70 • Calco (conch) & Shrimp \$25.15 in creole or garlic sauce • Balchi di Pisca (2 fish cakes) \$10.85 • Fish Soup \$6.90 	<p>MENU ITEMS RED FISH MENU SAMPLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish Filet pan fried \$18.55 with creole or garlic sauce • Calco "Conch" \$21.70 in creole or garlic sauce • Pan fried Lobster 6oz \$20.00 • Filet Mignon 6oz. Angus \$18.30 • Chicken Sate \$10.85
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Malaria has re-emerged in Venezuela

CARACAS -- For the first time in 50 years, Malaria, which is disseminated by mosquitoes, is spreading from jungle communities to bustling urban centers. Its revival, experts say, could take at least two years to reverse.

The occasional case in remote mining areas aside, Venezuela declared itself malaria-free in the 1960s. This followed a decade-long effort that included widespread spraying of the DDT chemical compound, educational campaigns and a government-led initiative to improve sewage systems and housing.

Many healthcare officials in this polarised, oil-rich South American country believe the biggest obstacle to eliminating the disease could be a political one. "Unless you have a con-

certed effort between the government and public health sectors the problem just grows exponentially," said Dr Gustavo Villasmil, health minister in the opposition-led state of Miranda.

Since the first case of urban malaria was reported in December, the ministry says there have been 22,831 cases nationwide, with 22,000 since January. Although the proportion of infected people is almost 15% lower than during the same period last year, cases have sprung up in three states for the first time in nearly six decades. Until recently, the disease was limited to Bolívar and Amazonas in Brazil, the Amazonian states where illegal mining activity is rampant and where malaria had not been eradicated.

LOCAL NEWS

Increased chairs anticipation for Aruba during winter, after increasing this with 7% for USA winter season

USA Airlines look on to the development of Aruba with



ORANJESTAD -- Recently, a delegation consisting of representatives from Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA), Aruba Airport Authority NV (AAA), Ministry of Tourism and Aruba & Tourism Association (AHATA) were in USA to reunite with all airlines that fly to Aruba. During this meeting, changes that will occur in the upcoming months were discussed including the delegation received heartwarming news that Aruba is developing according their expectations. Consequently, Aruba can count with the support of different partners in the aviation world to guarantee stability and or growth of the tourism industry.

During different meetings a presentations were held with different discussion points; relevant Aruba update, Aruba tourism goals, Marketing Investment on this area, Chair capacity for summer and winter, specific proposal for every airline. The delegation described the reunion as a success. Visits and meetings were with Delta Air Lines, US Airways, American Airlines, United, Southwest & Jetblue.

Every reunion for the winter season was a success and will share the information once this is received, after the publishment of the airlines schedule for this season.

The success of our tourism is the result of the effort combined with the island, of every citizens who is aware and proud of his island, industry and tourism, of a community that enjoy and offer a quality service directly or indirectly to our guests. The first step will always be to let the tourists choose Aruba as their destination, but the role of our community is essential to maintain and grow our tourism and economy consequently. Attention is necessary for this point; a heartfelt welcome must be given, the unique experience that makes our guest loyal visitors as they feel at home, respect must be given and always with a smile. This is the pillar of our island and only together we can achieve positive development.

Aruba Tourism Authority and the delegation are glad with the shared development during their staying,

that proves that with efforts on aviation area, that on marketing and investment areas there is a positive results and efficiency is being implemented.

Celebrating a very successful 30 year collaboration with Prof Dr. Hans Junginger

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba was, at one time, the world's number producer of aloe, which was in very high demand until the mid-1950's. The company producing it then fell on hard times, as consumers turned to other products, often influenced by advertising and marketing; the remarkable benefits of aloe were forgotten.

Aruba's first Prime Minister, Henny Eman, when not in office, was a smart businessman who saw the potential of revitalizing the industry, based on a plant that flourished on Aruba almost as a weed - it was everywhere.

With Dr. Koos Veel as Technical Director, Mr. Eman sought out the advice and services of the renowned Professor Dr. Hans Junginger 30 years ago, considered one of the world's great Pharmaceutical Technicians, specializing in creams and unguents. They visited him in Holland with a plea to help them produce exceptional products so the world would again appreciate aloe, and he was intrigued. Thus began a 30-year collaboration, resulting in products that heralded an exponential growth of the company. Beginning by marketing three products, Aruba Aloe Balm N.V. now produces and markets over 100 formulas, from sun blocks and after sun balms, to hair and skin care products, even a prescription formula that hospital burn wards in Europe swear by.

Professor Junginger obtained his PhD in 1971 and in 1981 was appointed the Head of Pharmaceutical Technology at Leiden University. He held the position at the Leiden/Amsterdam Center for Drug Research for 24 years. He has been a consultant to many major cosmetic companies, and awarded honorary PhD's by the University of Kent, England, the University of South Africa, and the University of London. He is now the Honorary Senator of the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and resides in Germany with his wife, a pharmacist. At Aruba Aloe Balm N.V., they commonly refer to him as the "Aloe Professor."

During his 30-year relationship with Aruba Aloe Balm N.V., Professor Dr. Junginger saw the company change hands in 2000, when it was purchased by Louis Posner, who infused the small company with his



great vision. It is the Posner family that really grew the company and built a modern plant and museum in Hato, which has become a tourist attraction.

It was with great pleasure and pride the Aruba Aloe Balm N.V. Managing Director Joshua Posner, who has taken up the baton from his father, was joined by Dr. Koos Veel in presenting Professor Dr. Hans Junginger with a handcrafted and engraved souvenir plaque commemorating the 30th anniversary of this very successful collaboration. An informal ceremony was conducted at the Surfside Marina on Monday afternoon, May 5. Joshua Posner also announced the company is expanding "exponentially" and will be introducing several new products this year, as well as expanding their retail shops to Holland and the U.S., where there is great demand.

The "Aloe Professor" recalled with nostalgia those two-day long journeys he took from Holland to Aruba, with several layovers, to spend a week cloistered in the Aruba Aloe labs perfecting their new products. With great pride he showed off two of the original sun protection lotions in their old containers from over 20 years ago. "We always keep a sample of each new product as we make it, and I am very pleased to show that even after 20 years of sitting in the warehouse, these Aruba Aloe products are still stable, have not separated or congealed, and are still usable."

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WORLD NEWS

Remains of 9/11 victims to be moved to ground zero



NEW YORK (AFP) - The unidentified remains of victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York will be taken Saturday to ground zero, but the move has sparked strong opposition from some families.

The attacks -- in which hijacked jetliners smashed into the Twin Towers, the Pentagon in Washington, and a field in Pennsylvania -- killed 2,753 people at the World Trade Center, or Twin Towers, alone.

But only 1,115 of the bodies were ever identified, according to figures from the New York medical examiners' office.

The unidentified remains will be moved from there to a specially built repository under the National September 11 Memorial & Museum on May 10, the mayor's office said in a letter to victims' families.

"This transfer will be conducted in a dignified and respectful manner, while also ensuring the protection and security of the remains during the move," the letter said.

Nearly 8,000 pieces of human remains -- which authorities have been unable to match with DNA provided by families -- will be moved in a "solemn, somber, respectful procession" of vehicles from the police, fire department, and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, The New York Times reported.

There will be no religious ceremony or service, nor will the event be attended by city officials, the newspaper added.

According to Susan Dahill, communications director for the "Voices of September 11th," the event will only be open to family members of the victims "because of the space limitation."

Monica Lewinsky breaks silence on Clinton affair

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Former White House intern Monica Lewinsky broke her silence yesterday about her illicit 1990s affair with president Bill Clinton, saying she wants to reclaim the narrative of events that brought her global humiliation.

Lewinsky, now 40, was in her early twenties when she became the infamous beret-wearing muse who engaged in sexual relations with the president and then endured a colossal backlash that nearly drove her to suicide.

After years of being turned away by potential employers, ridiculed online, and confronted by accusers as "that woman" who performed oral sex in the Oval Office, she decided to write her version of events in this month's Vanity Fair magazine.

"It's time to burn the beret and bury the blue dress," Lewinsky wrote in a lengthy essay in the magazine. "I am determined to have a different ending to my story. I've decided, finally, to stick my head above the parapet so that I can take back my narrative and give a purpose to my past."

She said her radio silence was so complete for nearly a decade that rumors swirled that the Clintons must have paid her off to keep her quiet. "Nothing could be further from the truth."

It is time to stop "tiptoeing around my past -- and other people's futures," she said, in a likely reference to former secretary of state Hillary Clinton's expected White House run in 2016.

Obama warns of wide climate impact on US

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House called yesterday for urgent action to combat climate change, saying in a major report that human-caused warming is already having a serious impact across the United States.

A four-year study by leading scientists -- accompanied by a user-friendly website at www.global-change.gov -- warns of the risks of rising sea levels, droughts, fires and pest outbreaks if the world does not tackle the repercussions of greenhouse gas emissions.

President Barack Obama's assistant on science and technology, John Holdren, said the report showed that climate change is "not a distant threat." In fact, the National Climate Assessment marks the "loudest and clearest alarm bell to date," he

told reporters.

Obama has repeatedly vowed to make climate change a priority, promising during his victorious 2008 election campaign to make the United States a leader in addressing the problem.

But he has failed to persuade Congress to take significant action, with industry-friendly lawmakers staunchly opposed to any restrictions on pollution. Obama instead is moving forward with actions on his own, such as tightening standards for carbon emissions by power plants.

To accompany the report -- authored by hundreds of scientists from both the private and public sectors -- Obama planned to give televised interviews to meteorologists around the country.



HAITI, PORT AU PRINCE : AFP photo shows Valerie Trierweiler, ex-partner of French President Francois Hollande, visiting Complexe Scolaire Rivière Froide on May 6, 2014 in Carrefour, Port au Prince, with French humanitarian association Secours Populaire, as part of her activities during her visit to Haiti from May 5-9. These schools were built with earthquake-resistant standards and have a capacity for 1,200 students and offers computer workshops, sewing room, first aid, soccer field, basketball court and other areas.

Where in the world is Rob Ford?

OTTAWA (AFP) - Questions arose yesterday about the whereabouts of Toronto's crack-smoking mayor after it was reported that US border agents have thwarted his efforts to enter a rehab program in Chicago.

Mayor Rob Ford, 44, apparently flew to the "Windy City" on May 1 aboard a private jet and was expected to check in at a rehab center for drug and alcohol abuse.

He took a leave of absence from city hall in the middle of his re-election campaign and made the trip after another video surfaced showing him apparently smoking crack recently.

But Canadian media said Ford turned back after landing in the US city, and officials are not saying

where he ended up.

The Globe and Mail newspaper said he decided not to seek entry into the United States after a brief chat with US customs agents.

Ford "was not denied entry, per se," the paper quoted Roy Norton, the consul general of Canada in Chicago, as saying. Rather, "he voluntarily withdrew his application to enter the USA."

Ford's brother Doug meanwhile told reporters in Toronto that the mayor has entered a rehab program.

"Due to confidentiality to not only the mayor but to the people in the rehab program, I'm not at liberty to say. He's in a rehab facility, 100 percent, and he's getting the support that he needs."

WORLD NEWS

British police 'to dig at resort' where Madeleine McCann disappeared



LISBON (AFP) - Portuguese authorities have accepted a request from British police to search land close to the hotel where three-year-old Madeleine McCann disappeared in 2007, according to yesterday's press reports.

The announcement comes almost seven years to the day after the young British girl's disappearance.

According to reports in both the Portuguese and British media, police officers want to use radar equipment to search for clues concerning Madeleine's disappearance.

Portuguese authorities refused to comment on the reports. Scotland Yard also made no comment.

Her parents have never given up hope that their daughter is alive.

News that officers could begin digging at the resort comes just weeks after British police said they were looking for a paedophile who sexually abused five girls during break-ins at holiday homes between 2004 and 2010 in the Algarve resort region of southern Portugal where Praia da Luz is located. The man is suspected of breaking in to 12 properties where British families were staying.

Madeleine disappeared just days before her fourth birthday in May 2003 from the bedroom of a holiday apartment while her parents dined in a nearby restaurant with friends.

Portuguese police officially closed their investigation in 2008, which at times proved controversial, especially after they indicted the girl's parents in connection with her disappearance.

British authorities opened their own investigation in 2013.

Russia dismisses new peace push on the Ukraine as fears of war rise

SLAVYANSK (AFP) - Russia yesterday rejected a new peace initiative for the Ukraine as fears of open war mounted over the ex-Soviet republic, whose troops are waging an increasingly deadly offensive against pro-Moscow rebels.

"Chaos and the risk of civil war" are looming, French President Francois Hollande warned after Kiev announced the death toll from an assault on a rebel-held flashpoint town in the east had climbed over 34.

"We are not very far from a military confrontation in the Ukraine," added German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

The West, which is threatening to broaden sanctions on Russia over the worsening crisis, sees a May 25 presidential poll in the Ukraine as crucial to hauling the country back from the brink.

Yesterday, the Swiss presidency chairing the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe urged a suspension of hostilities for that election to take place.

"We need a ceasefire for the election," Swiss President Didier Burkhalter said.

The Ukraine's foreign minister, Andriy Deshchytia, appealed to 30 of his counterparts assembled in Vienna to help "eliminate the external threats and provocations supported by Russia" to ensure the election goes ahead.

But Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lav-

rov, also at the Vienna meeting of the Council of Europe, said holding the vote during the current violence would be "unusual". President Vladimir Putin's spokesman has been more blunt, calling it "absurd".

Lavrov also dismissed a European push spearheaded by Germany to hold fresh peace talks on the Ukraine after the collapse of an April 17 agreement that Moscow has declared dead.

Any talks excluding the pro-Russian rebels active in Ukraine's east and southeast "would hardly add anything," he said.

Lavrov charged the Western nations backing Kiev's government "are not ready to agree for the southeast to take part in a national dialogue on equal terms".

The diplomatic impasse came as the Ukraine spiralled into deeper violence. Nearly 90 people have died in less than a week: half around the eastern town of Slavyansk, held by rebels since early April; and half in the southern port city of Odessa, where clashes culminated in a deadly inferno last Friday. Most killed have been pro-Russian fighters and activists.

Putin has so far held off ordering an invasion to "protect" Ukraine's Russian-speaking population.

But he has kept an estimated 40,000 troops on the border for the past two months. And the Kremlin claims to be receiving "thousands" of calls for help from eastern Ukraine.

Pistorius accused of 'sinister' remark to witness

PRETORIA (AFP) - Oscar Pistorius allegedly made a "very sinister" remark to a state witness and friend of the late Reeva Steenkamp in court yesterday, a lawyer for the woman said.

"My client, Kim Myers, was approached by Oscar Pistorius in court today and in a very sinister tone was asked 'how can you sleep at night?'" said lawyer Ian Levitt in a statement. "Obviously he wasn't asking her if she got her full eight hours sleep, it was obviously in a sinister way."

The Myers family hired Levitt to represent them soon after the 29-year-old model and law graduate was shot dead by Pistorius. Lawyers representing Pistorius denied the 27-year-old Paralympic gold medallist said anything threatening to Myers.

Pistorius defence lawyer Brian Webber denied the accusation.

But Levitt says Myers, who regularly sits in the front row of the public gallery is adamant she heard those words.

Stephen Tuson, an associate law professor, said if Pistorius made the comments to Myers, who is a state witness, in the investigative stage of the trial "it would have been very serious". However, since the state has closed its case, the comments are unlikely to have any consequence in court.



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HEALTH & LIVING

Coca-Cola to remove controversial drinks ingredient



The world's largest beverage-maker, Coca-Cola, plans to remove a controversial ingredient from some of its US drinks brands by the end of this year, following an online petition.

Brominated vegetable oil, or BVO, is found in Coca-Cola fruit and sports drinks such as Fanta and Powerade.

Rival Pepsi removed the chemical from its Gatorade sports drink last year. In Japan and the European Union, the use of BVO as a food additive is not allowed.

Pepsi has a plan to remove the ingredient from its entire product portfolio. It uses BVO in its Mountain Dew and Amp Energy drinks sold in the US.

BVO has been used as a stabiliser in fruit-flavoured drinks as it helps to prevent ingredients from separating.

According to medical research, excessive consumption of soft drinks containing BVO has been linked to negative health effects, including reports of memory loss and skin and nerve problems.

BVO was dropped from the US Food and Drug Administration's "Generally Recognised as Safe" list of food ingredients in 1970. However, drinks companies in the US are allowed to use BVO at up to 15 parts per million.

WHO: Polio outbreak a 'public health emergency'

The World Health Organization (WHO) warned this week that the crippling disease polio has re-emerged as a public health emergency, calling the widespread resurgence of the disease a public health emergency after new cases surfaced in a range of countries.

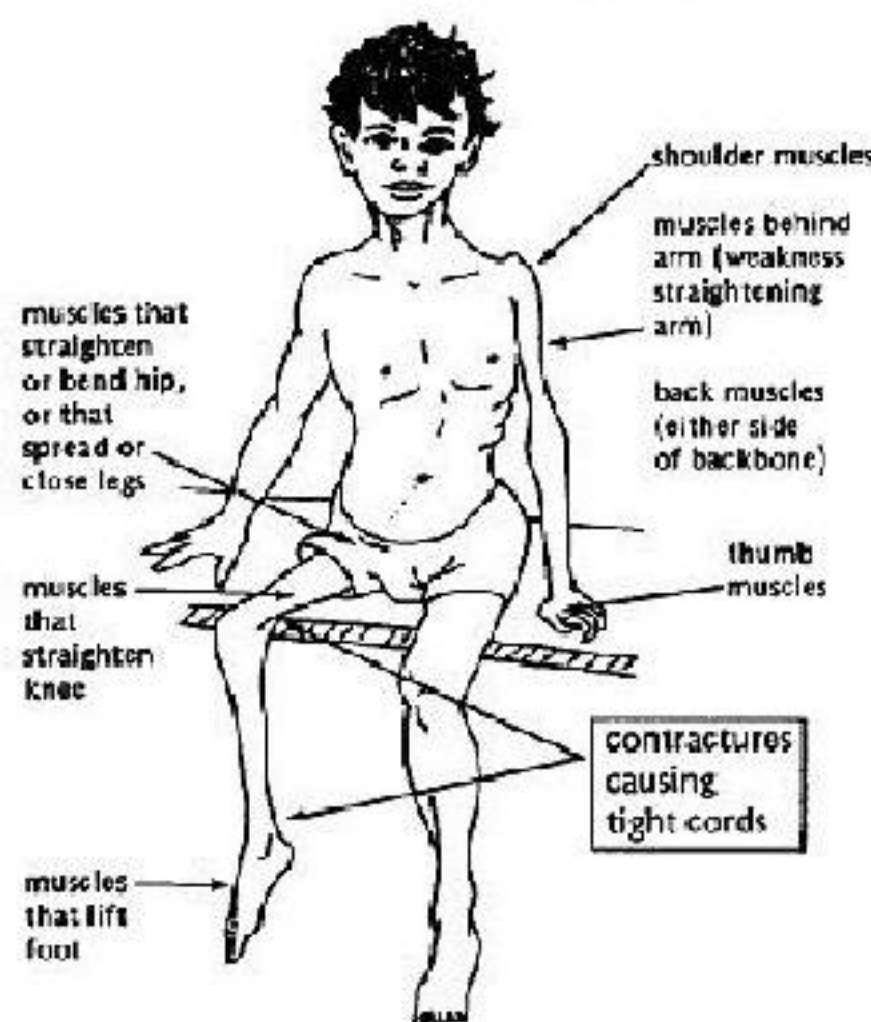
"The conditions for a public health emergency of international concern have been met," said WHO assistant director general Bruce Aylward.

In an announcement, the agency described the ongoing polio outbreaks in Asia, Africa and the Middle East as an "extraordinary" situation requiring a coordinated international response.

Polio usually strikes children under 5 and is usually spread via infected water. The virus is transmitted through contaminated food and water, and multiplies in the intestine. It can then invade the nervous system, causing paralysis in one in every 200 infections. It is capable of causing death within hours.

There is no specific treatment or cure, but several vaccines exist.

MUSCLES COMMONLY WEAKENED BY POLIO



WHO: Maternal deaths falling, but not fast enough

GENEVA (AFP) - Global maternal deaths have fallen sharply in recent decades, but women in sub-Saharan Africa are still by far the most likely to perish while pregnant, the World Health Organization said yesterday.

Fresh WHO statistics show the number of maternal deaths worldwide fell to 289,000 last year, down 45 percent from 1990, when an estimated 523,000 women died during pregnancy or childbirth.

While this marks a big step forward, the UN's health agency stressed it was far from good enough.

"There is still one woman dying every one and a half to two minutes somewhere in the world ...

because she is trying to give life," said Marleen Temmerman, who heads the WHO's department of reproductive health and co-authored the report. "That is like having two airplanes crashing every day," she told reporters in Geneva, insisting "this should be much higher on the agenda".

The WHO report emphasises that the dangers of childbearing are still felt far more acutely in the developing world, and in sub-Saharan Africa especially, than in wealthy countries.

While a woman in Chad faces a one in 15 risk of dying during pregnancy and childbirth during her lifetime, the risk is more than 1,000 times smaller for a woman in Finland, the statistics show.

African nations are heavily represented among the 10 countries that account for around 60 percent of all maternal deaths globally, including Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Kenya.

Several African nations meanwhile also figure among those who had succeeded in slashing their maternal mortality rates the most in the past 23 years, WHO said.

Rwanda, Equatorial Guinea and Eritrea were among a select group of only 11 countries, mainly in Asia, that have reduced maternal deaths by over 75 percent since 1990, thus reaching the Millennium Development Goal target ahead of the 2015 deadline.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Aruba Carnival Photograph Chosen As Featured Image For International Photo Exhibit



SANTO DOMINGO— Carnivals from the Greater and Lesser Antilles brought their magic, color and beautiful revelers to the Dominican Republic when Caribbean Carnival Portraits: The Photography of Mario Picayo and Mariano Hernández opened on April 10th at the National Gallery of Fine Arts in Santo Domingo. The opening reception, with music, food, carnival characters and surprises for the attendants, met its expectations as a major cultural event.

On May 27th the show travels to the Cándido Bidó Museum in the city of Bonao, giving audiences a second chance and an additional month to view the show. In September the show opens in New York City.

Both exhibits in the Dominican Republic are presented under the auspices of the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Culture.

Picayo and Hernández have a long list of individual exhibits, but this show is the first time that their works are seen together. Originally from Cuba, Picayo lived for over twenty years in the U.S. Virgin Islands. He lives in New York now. Hernández, from the Dominican Republic, is the most important carnival photographer in his country. Their combined work covers carnivals in over twenty nations. Few Caribbean-born photographers have such a large body of work from so many different carnivals in the region.

Aruba is well represented in the exhibit,

according to Picayo, who photographed the carnival this year. "It is a beautiful carnival. It was also interesting to see the differences in the celebration in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. So similar and at the same time, each one with its own identity." A work titled Carnival Portrait #15 even beat the competition to become the featured work for Picayo, which appeared on the invitations, banners, and all other media advertising the exhibit.

Picayo decided to come to Aruba upon the insistence of Alice van Romondt from the Ministry of Education whom he met in Havana in 2013. "Alice saw the original Caribbean Carnivals exhibit in Havana and noticed that Aruba was not included, so it was her comments and praise for the carnival that convinced me to choose Aruba. According to Picayo, the warm reception he received was another reason that made Aruba's carnival memorable. "All doors were open, and there was a genuine desire to make my visit a good one. From my first contact with the carnival committee (SAC), the Aruba Tourism Authority, Chibi van der Hans from Bacchanal, and of course Alice (van Romondt) and her friends, I felt very welcomed. The revelers were great, and the people watching the parade and watching the photographers under the hot sun for hours would offer us water, beer, rum, food... a great experience," Picayo said.

The exhibit features over two hundred portraits selected from among thousands. "It was the most difficult part of all," comments Hernández, "Every time you eliminate a picture it feels as if you are telling a child that you like a sibling a little better." The images are displayed in several sizes and were printed on acrylic, metallic paper, and fabric.

So who did Dominican audiences meet at the exhibit? "They met a great bunch," according to Picayo. "We have Moko Jumbies, Short Knees, Masqueraders, Clowns, Mud people, Vejigantes, Beauty Queens, Devils, the burning of King Momo in Aruba and Curacao are there, and lots of beautiful glittering faces."

And will the exhibit come to Aruba? "I definitely want to bring it to Aruba," Picayo stated. "It is our goal to take the exhibit to every country that made it possible. To me, the exhibit is the album of a big family. It shows how similar and how different we are, but leaves no doubt that we are all related. It is a visual handshake, an embrace from carnival brothers and sisters across the Caribbean."

The exhibits were made possible thanks to the generous underwriting support of the Galería Nacional de Bellas Artes, CCN (Centro Cuesta Nacional), Foto Sistema, LART (Latino Artists Round Table) and the Sociedad Benéfica Amor y Paz S.F.L.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Obama warns of wide climate impact on US



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House called Tuesday for urgent action to combat climate change, saying in a major report that human-caused warming is already having a serious impact across the United States.

A four-year study by leading scientists -- accompanied by a user-friendly website at www.globalchange.gov -- warns of the risks of rising sea levels, droughts, fires and pest outbreaks if the world does not tackle the repercussions of greenhouse gas emissions.

President Barack Obama's assistant on science and technology, John Holdren, said the report showed that climate change is "not a distant threat."

In fact, the National Climate Assessment marks the "loudest and clearest alarm bell to date," he told reporters.

Obama has repeatedly vowed to make climate change a priority, promising during his victorious 2008 election campaign to make the United States a leader in addressing the problem.

But he has failed to persuade Congress to take significant action, with industry-friendly lawmakers staunchly opposed to any restrictions on pollution. Obama instead is moving forward with actions on his own, such as tightening standards for carbon emissions by power plants.

To accompany the report -- authored by hundreds of scientists from both the private and public sectors -- Obama planned to give televised interviews to meteorologists around the country.

Emails Show Google Secretly Met With The NSA



Google executives Sergey Brin and Eric Schmidt met with the NSA, according to leaked email exchanges obtained by Al Jazeera.

The emails, which were obtained by Al Jazeera under the Freedom of Information Act, show that the head of the NSA, General Keith Alexander, asked Schmidt and Brin to meet to discuss potential cybersecurity threats from other countries.

The meetings themselves don't sound too crazy, but they do raise questions as to how the NSA used the information it learned from Google and other tech companies in order to spy on people, especially considering that the NSA had secretly gained access to the main communications links connecting worldwide data centers of Yahoo and Google.

At the time, Google was "outraged" that the NSA was snooping on its networks. Google Chairman Eric Schmidt even said at the time: "It's really outrageous that the NSA was looking between the Google data centers, if that's true."

On June 28, 2012, Alexander sent an email inviting Schmidt to a "classified threat briefing" at a "secure location" in San Jose, California, on Aug. 8, 2012.

According to the email, Alexander met with industry execs earlier in the month, but now wanted another meeting.

But, according to the emails, Schmidt did not attend this second meeting. "General Keith.. so great to see you..!" Schmidt wrote. "I'm unlikely to be in California that week so I'm sorry I can't attend (will be on the east coast). Would love to see you another time. Thank you!"

Brin attended previous meetings of the ESF group, but he couldn't attend the Aug. 8 briefing in San Jose because of a scheduling conflict, according to the emails.

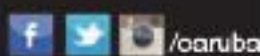
Still, there likely isn't much to worry about. As Engadget notes, "wild conclusions" shouldn't be drawn from the email exchanges, and that "Google's emails with the security agency hardly implicate the company in any wrongdoing."



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Meteor Explodes Over Canada

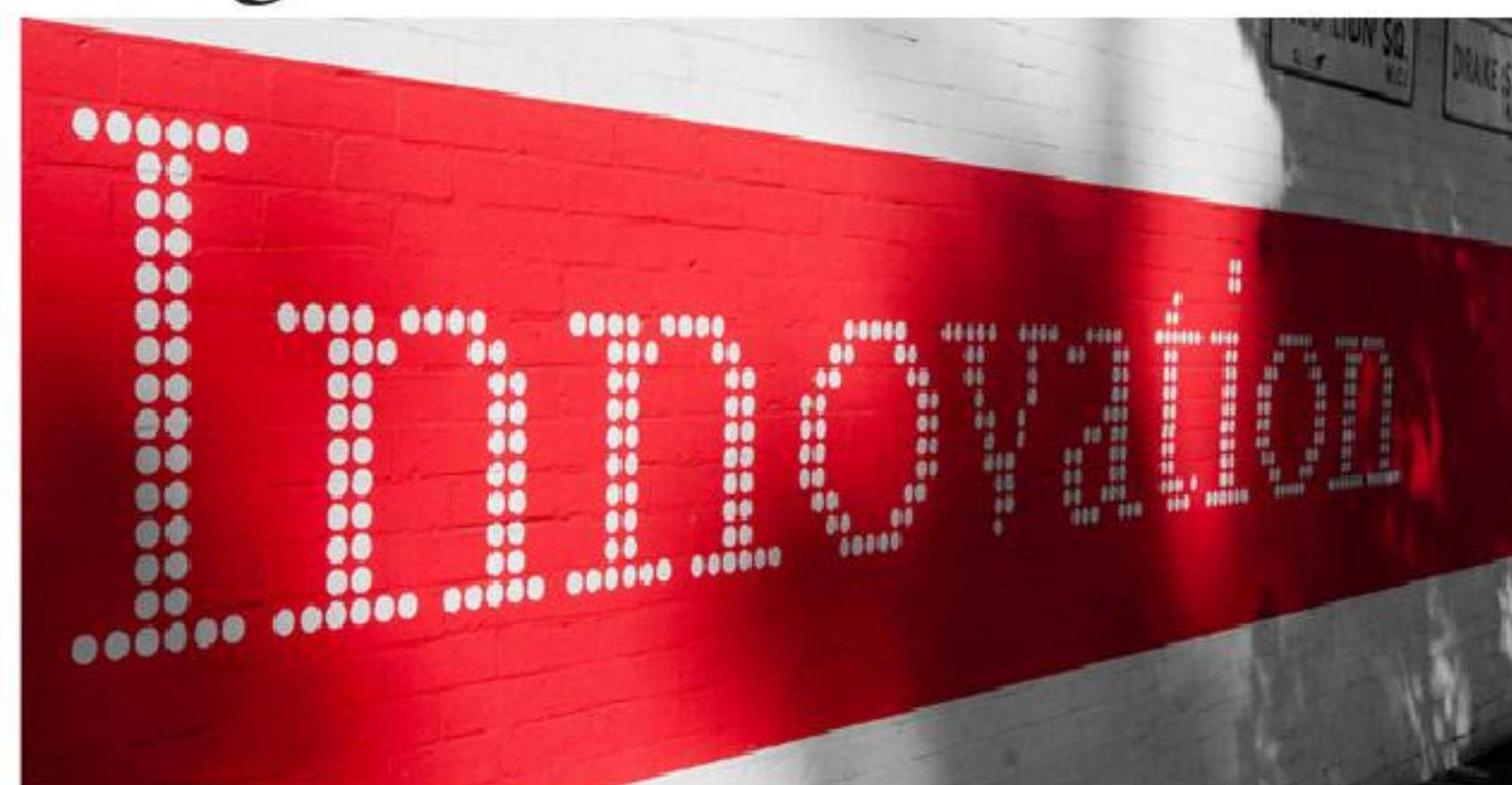


Ontario -- Sunday, May 4th, a meteor exploded over southern Ontario in Canada. The sighting occurred just before 4:20 pm local time and produced a flash of light that witnesses say rivaled the brightness of the sun. The explosion caused a loud crashing sound, leading many citizens to wonder if their house had sustained any damage.



ECONOMY

U.S. businesses are being destroyed faster than they're being created



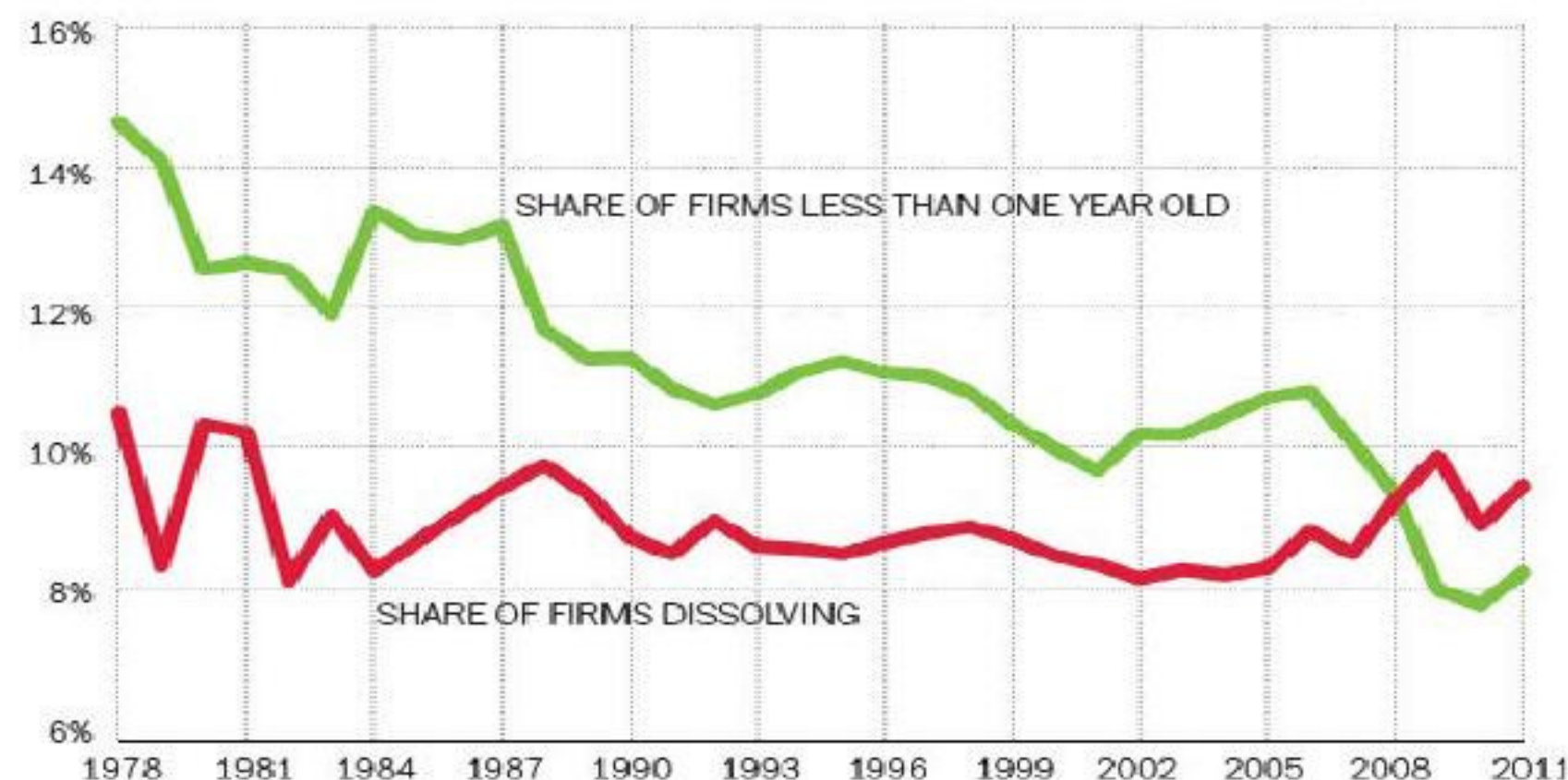
(Photo via Flickr user Boegh, used under a Creative Commons license)

The American economy is less entrepreneurial now than at any point in the last three decades. That's the conclusion of a new study out from the Brookings Institution, which looks at the rates of new business creation and destruction since 1978.

Not only that, but during the most recent three years of the study -- 2009, 2010 and 2011 -- businesses were collapsing faster than they were being formed, a first. Overall, new businesses creation (measured as the share of all businesses less than one year old) declined by about half from 1978 to 2011.

The U.S. economy has become less entrepreneurial over time

Share of new and dissolving firms, 1978-2011



Source: Brookings Institution Calculations from U.S. Census Bureau data. | Graphic: The Washington Post

The authors don't mince words about the stakes here: If the decline persists, "it implies a continuation of slow growth for the indefinite future." This lack of economic dynamism, particularly the steep drop since 2006, may be one reason why our current recovery has felt like much less than a recovery. As Matt O'Brien noted on Wonkblog last week, annual job growth rates have stubbornly refused to budge above 2 percent for the duration of the recovery.

The authors of the Brookings study dug beyond the national numbers to look at the change in new firms at the state and metro levels and found that they generally mirrored the national trends.

While all states showed steep drops in new firms, New York stands out for its much smaller decline in the share of new companies than other states -- only 18 percent, compared with the 50-state average of 47.2 percent. Illinois, Texas, New Jersey and Missouri round out the top five.

The Brookings findings strongly suggest that when it comes to luring new businesses to a given state, there are a lot more factors at play than straightforward calculations of corporate tax rates.

Euro gains vs dollar

NEW YORK (AFP) - The euro firmed against the dollar Tuesday, approaching \$1.40, as the greenback remained weak following last week's mixed job report.

The Labor Department report Friday showed solid job growth in April and a sharp drop in the unemployment rate, but that masked worrying details about the labor market's underlying weakness.

The forex action came as traders looked ahead to Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen's testimony Wednesday on the US economic outlook in a Senate hearing of the Joint Economic Committee.

"Much of the dollar's bearish performance stems from Friday's US jobs report, which, although stronger, seemed to lack the muscle to bring forward the timetable for a Federal Reserve rate increase," said Joe Manimbo at Western Union Business Solutions.

Meanwhile, investor confidence in the eurozone gained a further boost from Italy, whose long-term borrowing costs fell below the three percent level for the first time since the creation of the euro.

The rate of return for investors on 10-year bonds on the secondary trading market -- the implied costs for governments to borrow fresh funds -- had dropped below three percent on Spanish bonds last week.

EUR/USD 1.3926	\$1.3874	GBP/USD \$1.6974	\$1.6868
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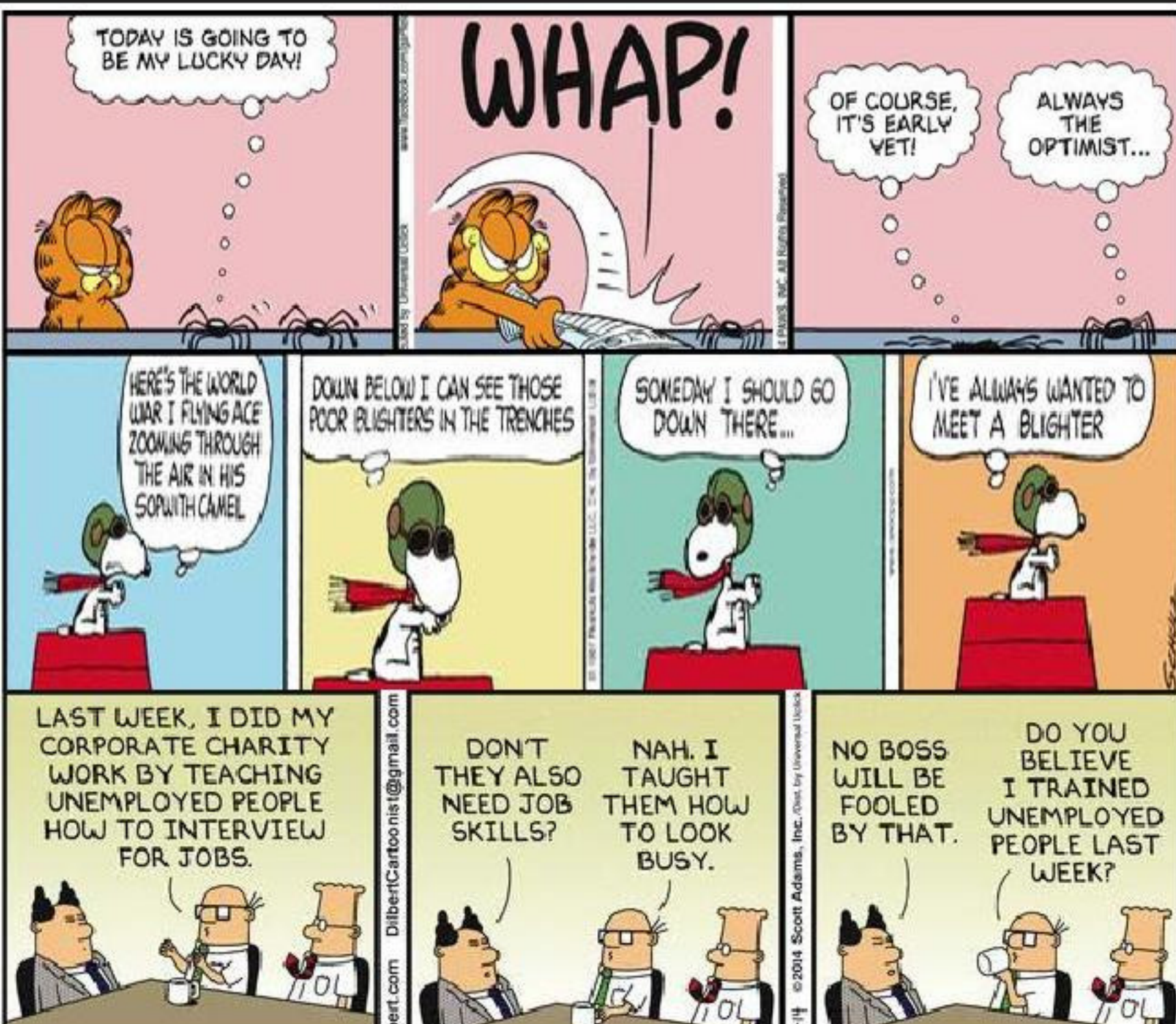
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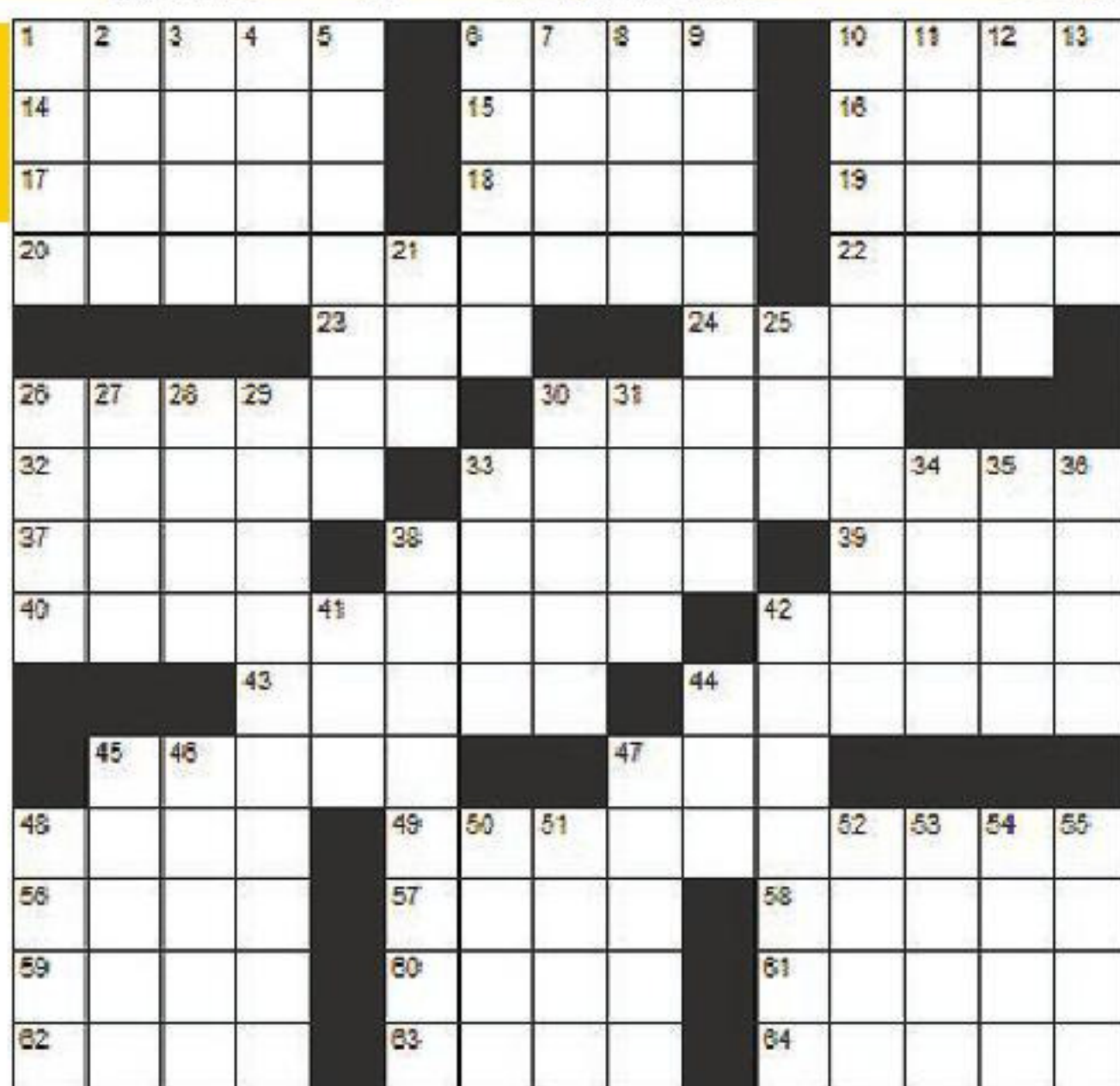
HUH?! COMICS



CROSS WORDS

ACROSS

1. Seraglio
6. Delight
10. Laugh
14. Got up
15. Magma
16. African antelope
17. Tropical vine
18. Send forth
19. Cut back
20. Deplorable
22. Historical periods
23. Hotel
24. Unwind
26. Coming
30. Ancient Roman magistrate
32. Fetch
33. Racer
37. Breathing organ
38. Prisons
39. Achy
40. Coming forth
42. Blockages
43. Exudes
44. Livestock pen
45. Hindu social division
47. Letter after sigma
48. Helps
49. Cogitate
56. 57 in Roman numerals
57. Acquire deservedly
58. Bicker
59. Bearing
60. Mortgage
61. Sad song
62. Strike heavily
63. Kill
64. Excrete



DOWN

1. Corridor
2. Diva's solo
3. Wander
4. Feudal worker
5. Connotation
6. Gather
7. Young sheep
8. Wicked
9. Diners
10. Dispiritedly
11. A kind of macaw
12. Coney
13. Chopping tools
21. Explosive
25. A late time of life
26. Competent
27. Percussion instrument
28. A climbing plant
29. Fascinating
30. Long stories
31. Expunge
33. Rational
34. Anagram of "Loot"
35. Therefore
36. A musical pause
38. Female schemers
41. Snagged
42. Campaign
44. A tribe of Israel
45. Polite
46. French farewell
47. Of very poor quality
48. Charity
50. Train track
51. District
52. Trigonometry (abbrev.)
53. Monster
54. Carpets
55. Encounter



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ARUBA'S BEST OF THE BEST

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional

community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area also to house a restaurant and mini-market.

The design of the residences is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of

kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, the management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is



also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

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SPORTS

110 years ago, Cy Young threw the first perfect game in Major League History



On May 5, 1904, at the age of 37, Cy Young threw the first perfect game under "modern" Major League Baseball rules, retiring all 27 Philadelphia Athletics batters he faced.

And while Young's eight strikeout performance was masterful, the story of the perfecto is even better. Young's opposing pitcher that day was fellow future Hall of Famer Rube Waddell. Coming off of two straight victories against Boston, Waddell challenged Young to a re-match of their April 25th matchup (which the A's ace had won). When Young retired Waddell to end the game, Young shouted "How do you like that, you hayseed" -- a perfect moment of retribution in one of baseball's all-time greatest performances.

Young's perfect game wasn't some fluke either, coming during a stretch of 25 1/3 hitless innings. Young would toss 40 complete games during that '04 season, including a league-leading 10 shutouts. Dude could hurl.

NBA: Warriors fire coach after first-round playoff exit



OAKLAND (AFP) - Mark Jackson was fired Tuesday as coach of the Golden State Warriors, three days after the team was ousted by the Los Angeles Clippers in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

Jackson spent three seasons as coach of the Warriors, guiding them to a 51-31 record this season and a combined 121-109 mark during his time at Golden State, which began in 2011.

"We're appreciative of his dedication and commitment since his arrival and are extremely grateful for his contributions. However, as an organization, we simply feel it's best to move in a different direction at this time," Warriors general manager Bob Myers said.

"It's never easy to make a decision of this nature. Mark has accomplished many good things during his three years with the organization, including his role in helping elevate this team into a better position than it was when he arrived nearly 36 months ago."

The Warriors were one game from advancing to the second round of this year's playoffs before falling 126-121 to lose their Western Conference series in the maximum seven games.

Football: French legend Zidane set for Bordeaux - reports

BORDEAUX (AFP) - France legend Zinedine Zidane is poised to become head coach of Ligue 1 side Bordeaux, according to reports in the French media on Tuesday.

Zidane, 41, played for Cannes, Bordeaux and Juventus before joining Real Madrid in 2001 and retiring at the age of 34 in 2006.

He is currently working as an assistant to Real coach Carlo Ancelotti, and in January graduated with a diploma in sports management at the Centre for the Law and Economics of Sport in Limoges.

Reports linking him to the job at Bordeaux have gathered strength this week with some papers suggesting his arrival at the Girondins was imminent.

The Sud Ouest daily wrote Tuesday that Bordeaux had made Zidane "top of their list" to replace existing manager Francis Gillot.

Gillot is under contract until 2015 with a release clause built into his deal.

Bordeaux president Jean-Louis Triaud said on Tuesday: "It's a rumour and the time is coming, when it's the moment to discuss the set up for next season we'll talk about it then."

If it comes about Zidane will become the



second 1998 French World Cup champion to manage Bordeaux after his former teammate Laurent Blanc, who was also a rookie coach, taking over the Bordeaux reins in 2007.

Blanc, now in charge of defending champions Paris Saint-Germain who can win the 2013-2014 title on Wednesday, guided them to the Ligue 1 title in 2009.

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SPORTS

World Cup security compared with Iraq, Afghanistan



RIO DE JANEIRO, May 6, 2014 (AFP) – Brazilian sports minister Aldo Rebelo admitted Tuesday the World Cup faced “serious” security problems -- but said the country would not be as dangerous as warzones like Iraq or Afghanistan.

“We all have our tragedies and challenges, serious problems relating to security,” said Rebelo as he embarked upon a hyperbolic offensive to defend Brazil, racing to be ready to host the Cup from June 12.

“I think Brazil is far less exposed to this kind of religious and nationalistic violence,” which has affected countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan, Rebelo said in a Rio address.

He also hit back at English press reports voicing fears about crime in Manaus -- where England open their tournament campaign against Italy -- citing Britain’s involvement in the 2003 invasion of Iraq as a comparison.

“I think it’s a good place for football. The English got used to hot temperatures during the colonial era -- and the Iraq war,” Rebelo said.

“I don’t think the English will confront greater threats in Manaus than in the Iraqi provinces or Afghanistan, where they recently lost hundreds of young soldiers” over the past decade, Rebelo added.

While saluting the fact Brazil has “firm links with Britain,” he could not resist an additional barb.

Noting the northeastern coastal city of Recife hosts a British cemetery, a relic of a sea-faring colonial power’s historic tropical adventures, he said: “I don’t think its population will rise because of the World Cup!”

Rebelo also stated that violence had rocked several sporting events in the past, citing the Munich Olympics massacre and the 1996 Atlanta Olympics bombing.

He referred to “the tragedy in Germany when athletes were kidnapped and killed” at the 1972 Munich Olympics, as well as a bomb attack at the Atlanta Games in 1996, “when there were deaths in the Olympic park.”

Rebelo also said that only this year, “there was an attack at a station with civilian victims” in the Russian city of Volgograd ahead of the Sochi Winter Games.

He further noted London had suffered terrorist attacks in

Premier League: Ryan Giggs promises ‘good times’ will return for Manchester United

Ryan Giggs has promised that the ‘good times’ will return for Manchester United after making what could be his final home appearance for the club.

The Old Trafford legend, who was appointed as interim manager following the sacking of David Moyes last month, named himself on the bench for the clash with Hull City.

Giggs brought himself on for the final 20 minutes of the 3-1 victory and then addressed the home supporters as the curtain came down on what has been a hugely disappointing campaign for the outgoing champions.

The Red Devils have suffered seven league defeats in front of their own fans this season, while also exiting the FA Cup and Capital One Cup to Swansea and Sunderland, respectively, on home turf.

That form saw Moyes’ brief tenure as Sir Alex Ferguson’s successor brought to a swift close, with Giggs stepping into the breach




and Louis van Gaal the favourite to take the job in the long-term.

The Welshman told the Old Trafford crowd after the match: “We know it has been tough this season and over the years we have been spoiled with the success we have had.

“Your support this year has never changed, you have always supported the team and the staff. I’m sure in the coming years we will bring you more success.

Giggs added: “A special thanks to Nemanja, who is leaving us this year”.



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SPORTS

McLaren declare they have taken steps to address MP4-29 underperformance

McLaren are confident they have identified the reasons for their slump in form and believe "the start of a fresh push and spirit within the whole organisation" ahead of this weekend's Spanish GP will start to move them back up the grid.

Since topping the Constructors' Championship following a double podium finish at the season-opener in Australia, McLaren have slipped to fifth place and failed to score points in the last two races. Their recent results have given rise to fears that the Woking outfit are reverting to their struggles of 2013, when they failed to finish on the podium all year, and that returning CEO Ron Dennis's prediction that they would win a race this season will not be realised.

However, following a three-week break between races between China and Spain in which the team have been able to investigate their recent underperformance at their Woking HQ, Racing Director Eric Boullier believes they understand what has gone wrong and now have a phased

plan in place to improve their competitiveness.

"For us, the weekend will be about learning, and hopefully moving on from our disappointing performance in China last month," the Frenchman explained.

"The root of our under-performance has been comprehensively analysed; we know the areas where our package falls short, and we've taken steps - both short- and long-term - to address those. While not all of those will be in evidence in Barcelona this weekend, they mark the start of a fresh push and spirit within the whole organisation.

"One thing we can be sure of is that Jenson [Button] and Kevin [Magnussen] will both be pushing to the limit. In China, it was difficult to watch two hard-pressing drives go unrewarded, but both drivers performed fantastically in Shanghai, and only lost out on points due to the inefficiency of our car.

"The McLaren Technology Centre has been bustling with intense focus and activity since our return from



China, and I'm hopeful that we are on the right track to steadily start pushing ourselves back towards the front."

Although this weekend's Spanish GP is set to be dominated by talk of the development race with team's poised to bring their biggest upgrades of the season so far, Jenson Button stressed that the most important thing for McLaren was to first learn how to get the most out of the MP4-29.

"We're still at the early stages with our car, and, for us, it's less about the components that we fit to it, and more about the bigger picture - finding a useful direction, gaining trust in our measurements and pushing ahead.

"We all know that this team has the capacity to develop a car through a season, so I hope and trust that we'll start to push forwards again soon."

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